



# Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **DEFENDANT SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

### ***Guilty Plea Leads to Sentence on Charge of Felon in Possession of Firearm***

March 2, 2012

[Plattsburgh, New York]—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced today that TRAVIS VASSAR, age 43, of West Chazy, New York, was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Mae A. D’Agostino on February 29, 2012, to 57 months incarceration and three years of supervised release for a conviction of Felon in Possession of a Firearm, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2). The conviction carried a maximum sentence of up to 10 years imprisonment, and a fine up to \$250,000. VASSAR pleaded guilty on September 7, 2011, in front of Judge D’Agostino in Albany, New York.

The evidence in the case established that VASSAR was convicted of Felony 3rd Degree Burglary in 1987 and Felony Possession of Forged Instruments in 1999, and was prohibited from possessing firearms based on these convictions. On October 28, 2009, VASSAR stole a shotgun and a rifle from his grandmother and sold them to Dick’s Country Store in Churrahusco, New York. After VASSAR’s grandmother reported the weapons stolen, they were retrieved and VASSAR was identified as the thief. VASSAR was indicted on May 4, 2011, and was arrested on July 7, 2011.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in Albany, with assistance from the New York State Police in Plattsburgh and the New York State Police Gun Investigation Unit. The case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of New York.

Any questions may be directed to Assistant United States Attorney Julie S. Pfluger in  
Plattsburgh, New York at 518-314-7800.